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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/672,069	09/25/2003	Tariq M. Rana	UMY-062	4721
959	7590	10/24/2005	EXAMINER	
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP. 28 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109			CHONG, KIMBERLY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1635	

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/672,069	RANA, TARIQ M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kimberly Chong	1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40-66 and 69-83 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 67 and 68 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-39 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 5/19/05, 9/12/03 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-39 and 67-68, in the reply filed on 09/19/2005 is acknowledged.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-83 are pending and claims 1-39 and 67-68 are currently under examination.

Claims 40-66 and 69-83 are withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 5-39 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only, such as and/or, and cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 5-39 not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Agrawal et al. (WO 94/01550).

Claims 1-4 are drawn to a siRNA comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein the antisense strand has a sequence sufficiently complementary to a target mRNA, wherein the sense strand or antisense strand is modified to enhance in vivo stability and further wherein the siRNA is complementary to a cellular or viral target mRNA. Agrawal et al. teach a dsRNA comprising a sense and antisense strand is complementary to a viral or cellular gene (see page 9, lines 30-36). Agrawal et al. further teach the dsRNA between 10 and 50 nucleobases (see Figures 6 and 7). Agrawal et al. further teach the dsRNA comprising nucleobases modifications for increased stability (see page 16, lines 24-36).

Thus, Agrawal et al. anticipates claims 1-4 and 33-37 of the instant application.

Claims 1-2 and 67-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parrish et al (Molecular Cell 2000).

Claims 1-2 are drawn to a siRNA comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein the antisense strand has a sequence sufficiently complementary to a target mRNA, wherein the sense strand or antisense strand is modified to enhance in vivo stability. Claims 67-68 recite a siRNA wherein the antisense strand is capable of adopting an A-form helix.

Parish et al. teach a siRNA comprising a sense strand and an antisense strand wherein a modified nucleobases increases stability (see Figure 5) and wherein the antisense strand has a sequence sufficiently complementary to the target mRNA (see Figure 3). Parrish et al. teach a siRNA comprising a 2'-fluoro modified nucleotide on the antisense strand wherein the antisense strand is capable of adopting an A-form helix (see Figure 5). It is noted that the specification

discloses a siRNA comprising a 2'fluoro modified nucleotide is preferred for adopting an A-form helix (see page 21, lines 15-22).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Chong whose telephone number is 571-272-3111. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between 7-4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached at 571-272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

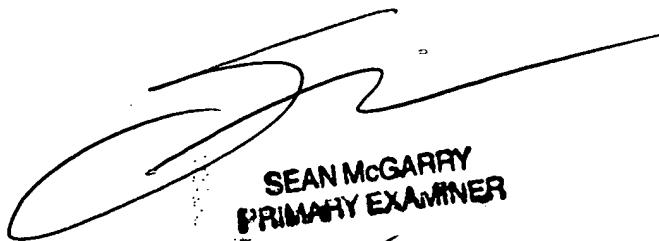
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general patent information available to the public. For more information about the PAIR system,
see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.

Kimberly Chong
Examiner
Art Unit 1635



SEAN McGARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
1635